

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action, dated October 4, 2004, where the Examiner has allowed claims 1-3, 5-17 and 21-45, and has rejected claims 18-20. Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's statements regarding allowance of claims 1-3, 5-17 and 21-45. By the present amendment, claim 21 has been cancelled, and claims 9-10, 12-15, 18-20, 22 and 25 have been amended. For example, claim 9 has been amended to swap the order of steps (a) and (b), and claims 12-15 and 25 have been amended to cure a few informalities. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 5-17 and 22-45 are pending in the present application. An early allowance of pending claims 1-3, 5-17 and 22-45 in view of the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

A. Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification, because the paragraph on page 11, lines 7-16, is missing a period at the end of the last sentence. By the present amendment, applicant has amended the specification to overcome the Examiner's objection.

B. Rejection of Claims 18-20 under 35 USC § 102(b)

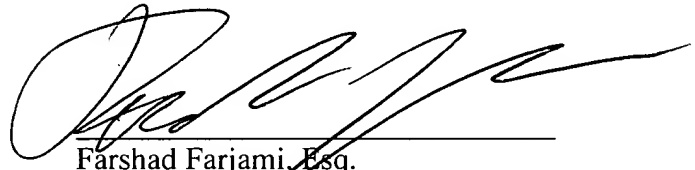
The Examiner has rejected claims 18-20 under 35 USC § 102(b), as being anticipated by Kumazaki, et al. (USPN 4,680,758) ("Kumazaki"). Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has amended claim 18 to include all of the limitations of claim 21. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 18, as amended, is condition for allowance, because the Examiner has found claim 21 to be

allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is respectfully submitted that claims 19-20 depend from claim 18 and should be allowed at least for the same reasons that claim 18 is allowable.

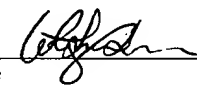
C. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance for claims 1-3, 5-17 and 22-45 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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